

Thank you for the phone call last night. You did offer me the opportunity to testify by way of written communication. I think I'm going to take that opportunity right now.

We were discussing the new legislation, mainly the new legislation to rebuild the sex offender registration Act. We're talking about house bill 5679, of course.

At the time I spoke with you, I briefly tried to emphasize to you how much the registration act has personally hurt me.

I re-entered Society on August 28, 2012. I served 2 years on parole, which might as well have been total house arrest, because of the way the sex offenders were being treated by parole agents at the behest of the parole board.

What I didn't realize was that, after serving 28 years in prison, I would be completely disenfranchised, in virtually every sense of the word except for my right to vote and my right to drive a car.

I told you, as I have written all 148 legislators in the past 4 months, that I had applied to 1800 jobs in a six-month. In 2019. I had been invited to 6 face-to-face interviews out of all of those attempts. That is one interview for every 300 applications for employment!

Of course, I only applied to those jobs where I had demonstrated meeting all of the eligibility requirements for each job.

Of the six interviews, I was offered jobs in five of those cases, and entirely depended upon my ability to pass the background check.

Of course, I couldn't pass the background check in any case because I'm on the national sex offender registry database.

I am more fortunate than most sex offenders. I worked long enough in my life to establish my right to have a Social Security retirement pension, a very tiny one. I live on \$1,200 a month. My social security income is my only income.

What I do with that income is nothing short of miraculous! I actually own my own home. Well, the bank and I do. My home is a national award-winning home.

If anyone were to drop by at my address at 1617 Ohio Avenue, here in Lansing, Michigan, they would see an award-winning home!

All of my neighbors know that I'm a registered sex offender. I have been fortunate that no-one has slashed my tires or burned a cross on my lawn.

I set an example for everyone in my neighborhood, as a productive, responsible and caring Citizen and member of the community.

I am a volunteer at the Change of Heart Ministries in Lansing and have been for the past seven years plus. I sit on the executive board. Change of Heart Ministry deals primarily, although not exclusively, with sex offenders on parole and probation.

Back to how the registry has harmed me. As I said, employment is virtually impossible for me, that is, unless I wish to work in a warehouse on midnight shift or in the factory on midnight shift, doing very hard labor for very small wages. I simply can't do that work anymore. I'm 75 years old, but I am still a viable human being with the ability to work in positions that are other than manual labor positions.

I really don't know any registered sex offender who actually has a job which pays a living wage.

I don't know too many sex offenders who actually have been successful finding a place to live, that is, outside of compassionate family members or friends willing and able to provide housing for them.

Those on the registry are at the very fringes of society, which might be normally referred to as being 4th class citizens.

The registry does not protect anyone from being sexually assaulted! If a person is still possessed of a criminal minded Behavior, that person will commit a sex crime. The registry isn't going to stop that.

This is because the time it takes to commit a sex crime can be as short as 2 seconds!

We briefly discussed the hearing being held today, May 6th. I discovered that Professor Paul Reingold had sent all of the members of judiciary his amicus curiae brief in the case of People vs. Betts.

His brief says everything that needs to be considered by the committee and by the legislature at Large! We don't need a registry! It is costly and a nightmare to administer by the police agencies.

Please carefully consider the testimony that Professor Jill Levinson gave you today at the hearing.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to testify in writing.